

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 12-14, 17, 21-25, 29, 32, 33 and 37-39 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 12-14, 17, 22-24, 29, 32, and 38 have been canceled, and claim 39 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 3, 21, 25, 33, 37, and 39 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 12-14, 17, 22-24, 29, 32, and 38 are rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 12-14, 17, 22-24, 29, 32, and 38 have been canceled without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 21, 24, 33 and 37 are allowed over the prior art of record.

That Examiner objects to claim 39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that claim 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form including all features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 39 is therefore in condition for allowance, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of claim 39 and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 324212003110. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: February 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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